

Serial No.: 09/878,480
Group Art Unit: 2644
Examiner: Rammandan P. Singh

Amendment to the Claims

1 (Currently Amended). An apparatus capable of providing an alphanumeric speed dialing service by a network, said apparatus comprising:

a network based database including a table of stored alphanumeric speed dialing codes and stored phone numbers; and

a network based controller, coupled to said database, capable of receiving an alphanumeric speed dialing code from a calling party and further capable of comparing the received alphanumeric speed dialing code to the stored alphanumeric speed dialing codes and if there is a match then enabling a connection between the calling party and a called party at the stored phone number associated with the received alphanumeric speed dialing code; and

wherein the alphanumeric speed dialing service is activated by the network in response to receiving a remote feature access code.

2 (Original). The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein each stored alphanumeric speed dialing code is related to a name of a potential called party.

3 (Original). The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said received alphanumeric speed dialing code includes at least one letter which is related to a name of the called party.

4 (Original). The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said received alphanumeric speed dialing code includes at least one numerical character that is translated by said controller into an alphanumeric speed dialing code which is related to a name of the called party.

5 (Canceled). Please cancel claim 5.

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6 (Original). The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said controller is also capable of changing one of the stored phone numbers of a potential called party when the potential called party is issued a new phone number.

7 (Original). The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said alphanumeric speed dialing service is an enhancement to a numerical speed dialing service.

8 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said apparatus is incorporated within a remote server from a telephone.

9 (Original). The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said apparatus is incorporated within a switch.

10 (Original). The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said apparatus is incorporated within a home location register.

11 (Original). The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said apparatus is incorporated within a service control point.

12 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said calling party uses an alphanumeric keypad ~~phone~~ to generate the alphanumeric speed dialing code.

13 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said calling party uses a numerical keypad ~~phone~~ to generate the alphanumeric speed dialing code.

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14 (Currently Amended). A method for enabling a calling party to use an alphanumeric speed dialing network based service, said method comprising the steps of:

providing the alphanumeric speed dialing network based service with a plurality of alphanumeric speed dialing codes and a plurality of phone numbers which are associated with potential called parties for storing in a network database;

inputting an alphanumeric speed dialing code to a telephone;

and

~~providing the alphanumeric speed dialing service with an alphanumeric speed dialing code to a network, wherein the network compares the received alphanumeric speed dialing code to the network database to determine an associated phone number and initiates instead of a phone number of one of the potential called parties that the calling party would like said alphanumeric speed dialing service to enable a connection therewith.~~

15 (Original). The method of Claim 14, wherein said step of providing the alphanumeric speed dialing service with a plurality of alphanumeric speed dialing codes and a plurality of phone numbers further includes the steps of:

generating a list of the phone numbers of the potential called parties that are to be associated with alphanumeric speed dialing codes;

selecting the alphanumeric speed dialing codes that are descriptive of the potential called parties; and

forwarding the phone numbers and the alphanumeric speed dialing codes of the potential called parties to the alphanumeric speed dialing service.

16 (Original). The method of Claim 14, wherein said step of providing the alphanumeric speed dialing service with an alphanumeric speed dialing code further includes the step providing a feature access code along with the alphanumeric speed dialing code to initiate the alphanumeric speed dialing service.

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17 (Original). The method of Claim 14, wherein said provided alphanumeric speed dialing code includes at least one alphanumerical character which is related to a name of the one called party.

18 (Original). The method of Claim 14, wherein said provided alphanumeric speed dialing code includes at least one numerical character that is translated into an alphanumeric speed dialing code which is related to a name of the one called party.

19 (Original). The method of Claim 14, wherein said alphanumeric speed dialing service can automatically update the phone numbers of the potential called parties.

20 (Currently Amended). A method for providing an abbreviated alphanumeric speed dialing service in a network to a calling party, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving, from the calling party, a plurality of alphanumeric speed dialing codes and a plurality of phone numbers of potential called parties;

storing the plurality of alphanumeric speed dialing codes and the plurality of phone numbers of the potential called parties in a network database;

receiving an alphanumeric speed dialing code from the calling party from any telephone connected to the network;

comparing the received alphanumeric speed dialing code to the stored alphanumeric speed dialing codes; and

if there is a match between the received alphanumeric speed dialing code and one of the stored alphanumeric speed dialing codes, enabling a connection between the calling party and a called party at the stored phone number associated with the received alphanumeric speed dialing code.

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21 (Currently Amended). The method of Claim 20, further comprising the step of automatically changing one of the stored phone numbers of a potential called party stored in the network database when the network receives a new issued phone number for the potential called party ~~is issued a new phone number~~.

22 (Original). The method of Claim 20, wherein said step of receiving an alphanumeric speed dialing code from the calling party further includes receiving a feature access code which activates the alphanumeric speed dialing service.

23 (Original). The method of Claim 20, wherein said received alphanumeric speed dialing code includes at least one letter which is related to a name of the called party.

24 (Original). The method of Claim 20, wherein said received alphanumeric speed dialing code includes at least one numerical character that is translated into an alphanumeric speed dialing code which is related to a name of the called party.

25 (Original). The method of Claim 20, wherein said received and stored alphanumeric speed dialing codes are related to the names of the potential called parties.

26 (Original). The method of Claim 20, wherein said alphanumeric speed dialing service is an enhancement to a numerical speed dialing service.

27 (Canceled). Please cancel claim 27.

28 (Currently Amended). The method of Claim 20, wherein said alphanumeric speed dialing service is accessed on the network by a remote feature access code ~~a network based service~~.

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29 (Currently Amended). A telecommunications system comprising:
an apparatus capable of providing an alphanumeric speed dialing service, said apparatus including:

a database including a table of stored alphanumeric speed dialing codes and stored phone numbers; and

a controller, coupled to said database, capable of receiving an alphanumeric speed dialing code from a calling party and further capable of comparing the received alphanumeric speed dialing code to the stored alphanumeric speed dialing codes and if there is a match then enabling a connection between the calling party and a called party at the stored phone number associated with the received alphanumeric speed dialing code; and

wherein said calling party provides one feature access code along with the alphanumeric speed dialing code to initiate the alphanumeric speed dialing service and said calling party provides another feature access code along with the numerical speed dialing code to initiate the numerical speed dialing service.

30 (Original). The telecommunications system of Claim 29, wherein said apparatus is also capable of providing an numerical speed dialing service, wherein said database includes a table of stored numerical speed dialing codes and stored phone numbers and said controller is capable of receiving a numerical speed dialing code from a calling party and further capable of comparing the received numerical speed dialing code to the stored numerical speed dialing codes and if there is a match then enabling a connection between the calling party and a called party at the phone number associated with the received numerical speed dialing code.

31 (Original). The telecommunications system of Claim 29, wherein said received alphanumeric speed dialing code is related to a name of the called party.

32 (Canceled). Please cancel claim 32.

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33 (Original). The telecommunications system of Claim 29, wherein said apparatus is a telephone, switch, home location register or a service control point.